

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 262819
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:FZBROWN:JY
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
EA:ROAKELY
L/EA:EVERVILLE
S/S-O :JETHYDEN
P:PCHABIB

-----004857 031541Z /47

O 021455Z NOV 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 262819

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PDIP, VM, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN YACHT BRILLIG

REF: PARIS 31995

1. EMBASSY SHOULD CONTACT VIETNAMESE NOVEMBER 3 TO REQUEST THAT SRV EMBASSY URGENTLY FORWARD FOLLOWING TEXT OF LETTER FROM HOLBROOKE TO PHAN HIEN.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

BEARING IN MIND MY CONVERSATIONS IN NEW YORK WITH VICE MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH IN WHICH WE DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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IMAGINATION IN DEALING WITH RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I WRITE TO YOU URGENTLY CONCERNING THE AMERICAN YACHT BRILLIG, WHICH HAS BEEN HELD IN VIETNAMESE CUSTODY SINCE OCTOBER 12.

I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF THIS CASE, AND IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO REPEAT THE MESSAGES EXCHANGED THROUGH

OUR PARIS EMBASSIES, THE LATEST BEING YOURS OF NOVEMBER 2.
WE HAVE ADVISED YOU OF THE INTEREST WHICH HAS ARISEN IN
THE AMERICAN PRESS AND CONGRESS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD
TO STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SECURE THE
RELEASE OF THE CREW AND SHIP.

THERE ARE SEVERAL ASPECTS TO THE BRILLIG CASE. ONE IN-
VOLVES VIETNAM'S CONDUCT IN SEIZING THE VESSEL AND CREW.
SECOND, THEY HAVE NOW BEEN DETAINED FOR A CONSIDERABLE
PERIOD OF TIME, AND WE HAVE HAD INSUFFICIENT RESPONSE TO
OUR REPEATED REQUESTS FOR FULL INFORMATION AND FOR THEIR
PROMPT RELEASE. INSTEAD WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT MATTERS
ARE "VERY GRAVE", THAT "NARCOTICS OR SOMETHING OF THAT
SORT" IS INVOLVED, AND THAT YOUR INVESTIGATION IS CONTINU-
ING. YOU HAVE GIVEN US NO REAL SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR
YOUR APPARENT SUSPICIONS. IT IS PARTICULARLY DISTURBING
THAT VIETNAM CONTINUES TO REFUSE ACCESS TO THE CREW BY AN
IMPARTIAL THIRD PARTY TO VERIFY THEIR HEALTH AND WELFARE.
THIS IS ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN PRACTICE, NOT
SOMETHING SPECIAL.

IF THIS SITUATION CONTINUES, AN ISSUE MAY DEVELOP WHICH
WILL HAVE LARGER RAMIFICATIONS FOR OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THE
POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES, I REGRET TO SAY, COULD ONLY BE
DETRIMENTAL TO CONTINUED PROGRESS IN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE OUR
RELATIONS.

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I TAKE THE LIBERTY OF WRITING TO YOU IN THIS FRANK MANNER
BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT IS IN YOUR INTEREST AS WELL AS OURS
TO UNDERSTAND FULLY THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE BRILLIG CASE.
I WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR COMMENTS AT YOUR VERY
EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

SINCERELY,

RICHARD HOLBROOKE. END TEXT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 02-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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